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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1950

A. D. SYMONS, M.D., D.P.H.

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BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman R. H. Urwick, M.D. (Chairman)

Mr. Alderman A. Bennett
Mr. Alderman H. Steward
Mr. Alderman J. M. West
Mr. Councillor F. W. C. Bill
Councillor Mrs. E. M. Cock (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Councillor A. H. Howl
Councillor Mrs. G. M. Hughes
Mr. Councillor W. J. Jones
Mr. Councillor J. S. Macnamara
Mr. Councillor T. W. Richards
Councillor Mrs. C. E. Thickpenny
Mr. Councillor L. J. Tilling

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health
†A. D. Symons, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector
†*C. Stanley, Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors
†*I. G. Griffiths, Cert. R.S.I.
† C. T. Mabbott, Cert. R.S.I.

Chief Clerk
G. T. Nicholas

Assistant Clerk
G. T. Adams, Cert. R.S.I.

Abattoir Superintendent and Meat Inspector
*S. R. Reed, Cert. R.S.I.

Assistant Meat Inspector
*N. Edge, Cert. R.S.I.

PART-TIME OFFICERS

Meteorological Observer

R. Gray

Public Analyst

Harold Lowe, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Sampling Officer

W. C. Heas (retired 30th November, 1950)

R. P. Holdaway (appointed 1st December, 1950).

* Qualified Meat Inspectors.

† Contribution towards salary made under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer grants.

HEALTH CENTRE,
MURIVANCE,
SHREWSBURY.

May, 1951.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Shrewsbury

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my twenty-sixth Annual Report on the health of the Borough during the year 1950, having now completed a quarter of a century in your service.

There are two circumstances in connection with the year 1950 which, though having no direct or superficial connection, nevertheless open up a train of thought about health which otherwise we might neglect to consider.

The one circumstance was the adoption and the coming into force of the Clean Food Byelaws and the other was the commencement of the new main sewerage scheme which, when completed, will entail most likely new methods of final sewage disposal in years to come.

Dirt has been described as " matter in its wrong place," just as there is a saying that we all have to eat a peck of dirt before we die !

There is no doubt a good deal of truth in the latter belief, but it all depends, of course, on the nature of that dirt. Dust of an inorganic nature derived from the wear and tear of pavements or streets can be innocuous, whereas certain pathogenic bacteria if ingested can bring about serious illness or death.

In the practical application of the Clean Food Byelaws, as scientific knowledge expands, may we not in our cleverness and hygienic zeal come to resemble the expanding universe in which we are told that constellations are racing away in the seeming madness of millions of miles a minute ? We may concentrate on devising new methods of sterilisation of our food at the expense of ensuring that the food itself is derived from sources containing all the natural elements of which it should be constituted.

Anti-biotics have been discovered which inhibit the growth of decay organisms in food not otherwise preserved. High frequency electronic waves or ultra sonic vibrations can now be used in the laboratory to sterilise food and preserve it.

And so we may go on to the stage of synthetic food if, in following such will o' the wisps, we fail to pause and enquire as to whether we are on the right road.

Science may so preserve food to prevent waste or to succour starvation, but no laboratory or factory will ever produce the necessary foodstuffs or dietary that human beings require for the healthy functioning of their bodies.

We may achieve the ideal of sanitation, but unless we are to be ruined by a system that has the defects of its own good qualities the ideal of soil fertility must be combined with hygiene and this is where one can connect up the question of sewage disposal.

There are at least sixteen minerals necessary to human life, but no effort is being made to replenish the mineral content of the soil except for the three fertilising minerals ; phosphate, potash and nitrate (ammonia).

This widespread mineral exhaustion is accumulating and we are creeping towards a dangerous depletion of the soil.

It is a question to-day whether most of the vegetables reaching our markets are not inadequate in mineral and vitamin content for human needs.

To what extent may the physically and mentally and nervously unfit owe their condition to mineral and vitamin deficiency ?

It is not inconceivable, but likely that the increasing number of nervous diseases and " breakdowns " which we explain away as being due to the accelerated tempo of modern times and the unaccustomed stress of our machine civilisation may have their roots in the depleted soil of our farms.

How do we expect Nature to provide us for ever if we make no payment or replacement ?

Infection is always with us and what matters is not the impossible attempt to sterilise life and exclude all harmful germs from our universe, but the building up of resistance by common sense way of living, which include contact with clean air and sunlight, reasonable exercise and a balanced dietary, not gauged by calories, but containing in that dietary a proportion of fresh unsophisticated foodstuffs derived from animals or plant life nurtured on soil that in its turn has been rendered fertile by organic manures rather than by manufactured artificial compounds which may themselves unbalance the chemical constitution of the soil, as well as destroy some of the bacterial organisms so necessary for the continued existence of plant life.

If we, then, have fortified our constitutions with sound food, soundly nourished in well fertilised soil, is there not more chance of combating the innumerable bacteria one is bound to encounter in the process of eating and drinking, by such vigour of body as can deal appropriately with them ?

We are at last beginning to realise how wasteful we have been with some of our natural resources such as coal and timber for paper making, but how many even of those who ought to think, concern themselves with restoring to the soil the vast quantity of organic material which has been extracted by man for food or utilitarian purposes and is then discarded and disposed of as refuse or sewage.

It is quite practicable to deal with household refuse, after salvage of certain articles, in combination with sewage sludge so as to create a compound which, by natural action, becomes purified and reconverted into valuable organic material for return to the soil of farms, allotments or gardens.

At our present sewage farm, which has so much to deal with and will have more as the town grows, some of the land can become " sewage sick " from over-saturation and traces of sewage can find their way into the Severn to pollute it.

It does seem that when the time comes, an opportunity might be seized to devise a combination of methods whereby sewage and refuse might be treated so as to eliminate waste, recover valuable substances and return them to the soil from which they originally came with subsequent benefit to plants, animals and ourselves.

Shrewsbury reached its highest population estimated at 45,820 at the middle of 1950.

The birth rate fell to 14.5 per 1,000 estimated resident population in contrast with the highest rate of 20.2 reached during the war years.

The death rate per 1,000 population was 10.6 with 488 deaths, compared with rates of 11.5 and 9.8 in the previous years respectively.

The Infant Mortality Rate was the lowest ever recorded in Shrewsbury and was 18 per 1,000 Live Births.

The previous lowest Infant Mortality Rate was 24 recorded in 1944.

The number of illegitimate births, which had been 60 in 1948 and 45 in 1949, fell to 30 in 1950.

There was only one case of Diphtheria.

It is a cause of great satisfaction that I receive such consideration from the members of the Public Health Committee and I am duly grateful for the help given by my colleagues in other Departments, as well as for the constant help and loyalty of my own staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. SYMONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1950

Rateable value of the Borough	£325,995
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,300
Area of the Borough (excluding water) in acres	8,034
Population (Registrar General's estimate, middle of 1950)	45,820
Persons per acre calculated on above population	5.7
Inhabited houses (December 31st, 1950)	12,391

		MALE	FEMALE		
Live Births	Legitimate	318	317	Total	665
	Illegitimate	12	18		

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population	14.5
Stillbirths	21
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births	30.6
Deaths	488
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	10.6
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
,, ,, Other Puerperal causes	1
MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)	1.5
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	18
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	14
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	100
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	76
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	1
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

WEATHER CONDITIONS

As in the past twenty-one years daily readings and weather recording took place at Monkmoor Isolation Hospital, where a Climatological Station, approved by the Air Ministry, is situated.

Many people remember and judge a year's weather by the summer which generally includes an annual holiday. The year 1950 was considered to have been a miserable year and though the annual rainfall of 27.82 inches was 2 inches above the average rainfall for Shrewsbury, yet in the first six months of the year, excluding February with 4.31 inches, only 8.01 inches fell between January 1st and June 30th.

Although the sunshine was 202 hours less than in 1949, yet it was 97 hours above the average annual sunshine for Shrewsbury.

The particulars regarding 1950 may be summarised as follows :—

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 27.82 inches, compared with 20.72 inches, 26.66 and 22.15 in the previous years respectively.

Sunshine.—The number of hours of bright sunshine recorded was 1,433.0 hours, compared with 1,635.2, 1,455.6 and 1,380.6 hours in the previous years respectively.

Temperatures.—Extremes of temperature during the year were :

WARMEST DAY (Highest Shade Maximum), June 6th, 85°.

WARMEST NIGHT (Highest Shade Minimum), July 19th, 63°.

COLDEST DAY (Lowest Shade Maximum), January 24th and 26th, 31°.

COLDEST NIGHT (Lowest Shade Minimum), December 6th, 16°.
The hottest day in the sun was July 9th, with 126°.

The Air Ministry reported most favourably on " The high standard of accuracy, completeness and neatness of the returns " made by the Observer (Mr. R. Gray).

Weather Statistics. Shrewsbury, 1950.

1950 Month	Barometric Pressure In Inches	AIR TEMPERATURE IN SHADE °F					Hottest Day in Sun	SUNSHINE IN HOURS			RAINFALL IN INCHES		
		Mean Maximum	Highest Maximum and Date	Mean Minimum	Lowest Minimum and Date	Mean Temperatures		Most Sunshine in one Day	Daily Means	Total Hours	No. of Rainy Days	Greatest fall in one Day	Total Rainfall
Jan. ...	30.146	44.4	57° on 11th	35.1	19° on 26th	39.7	79° on 13th	5.8 on 17th	1.11	34.6	9	0.21 on 30th	0.64
Feb. ...	29.686	48.2	58° on 17th	35.6	22° on 27th	41.9	85° on 18th	9.0 on 26th	2.17	60.7	16	0.74 on 19th	4.31
Mar. ...	30.086	53.3	60° on 20th & 23rd	38.3	29° on 13th	45.8	99° on 20th	10.2 on 25th	3.63	112.5	14	0.42 on 23rd	1.42
April ...	29.787	53.2	62° on 7th & 20th	38.8	29° on 25th	46.0	111° on 6th	10.3 on 3rd	5.00	150.1	22	0.37 on 17th	2.89
May ...	30.077	60.5	74° on 31st	44.6	34° on 17th	52.5	114° on 30th	14.4 on 11th	5.75	178.2	8	0.27 on 25th	1.01
June ...	30.001	70.4	85° on 6th	51.4	41° on 15th	60.9	122° on 19th	14.4 on 10th	7.34	220.2	15	0.30 on 13th	1.41
July ...	29.911	69.4	78° on 9th	52.8	44° on 27th	61.1	126° on 9th	14.2 on 27th	5.88	182.4	15	0.84 on 13th	2.21
Aug. ...	29.837	67.9	77° on 6th	51.5	43° on 14th	59.7	120° on 4th & 6th	11.2 on 29th	5.43	168.3	20	0.67 on 23rd	3.34
Sept. ...	29.790	62.0	72° on 4th	49.2	40° on 23rd	55.6	114° on 4th	11.2 on 2nd	3.99	119.7	26	0.50 on 30th	3.74
Oct. ...	30.002	55.8	70° on 5th	43.2	27° on 29th	49.5	105° on 18th	8.8 on 5th	3.51	108.9	14	0.27 on 30th	1.46
Nov. ...	29.399	47.7	55° on 8th & 28th	35.7	25° on 26th	41.7	79° on 9th	6.7 on 14th	1.70	51.0	21	0.45 on 11th	3.38
Dec. ...	29.791	38.7	50° on 9th & 10th	29.8	16° on 6th	34.2	70° on 2nd & 6th	6.4 on 5th	1.82	46.4	23	0.24 on 31st	2.01
										1433.0			27.82

VITAL STATISTICS

1950 and Previous Years

Year	Population (estimated) each year by Registrar General	Births		Deaths				
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages		
		Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Number	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Number	Rate Crude	Rate Adjusted
1940	42070	706	16.4	31	44	590	14.0	14.1
1941	45220	753	16.6	29	37	549	11.9	—
1942	44860	839	18.7	32	38	419	9.3	—
1943	42890	744	17.3	26	35	509	11.9	—
1944	42800	866	20.2	21	24	441	10.3	—
1945	42820	769	17.9	37	48	481	11.2	—
1946	44070	792	17.9	38	48	542	12.3	—
1947	44110	797	18.1	26	33	483	10.9	—
1948	45090	777	17.2	25	32	444	9.8	—
1949	45360	688	15.2	24	35	524	11.5	11.8
1950	45820	665	14.5	12	18	488	10.6	10.8

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the civil population of Shrewsbury for 1950 was 45,820, compared with 45,360 in the previous year.

BIRTHS

The number of live births in 1950 was 665, compared with 688 and 777 in the previous years respectively.

The birth rate for 1950 was 14.5, compared with 15.2, 17.2 and 18.1 in the previous years respectively.

The 665 live births may be analysed as follows :—

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Male	318	12	665
Female	317	18	

Illegitimate Births

There were 30 illegitimate births, compared with 45, 60 and 46 in the previous years respectively.

The illegitimate birth rate was 0.65 per 1,000 population, illegitimate births being a percentage of 4.5 of the total live births.

Stillbirths

There were 21 stillbirths, compared with 18, 19 and 19 in the previous years respectively.

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 population was 0.46, the stillbirths being a percentage of 3.0 of the total births.

A comparison between the birth rates and stillbirth rates as between Shrewsbury aud the average of other areas is set out in the following table :—

	Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Live Birth	Stillbirth
England and Wales	15.8	0.37
London	17.8	0.36
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	17.6	0.45
148 Smaller Towns	16.7	0.38
SHREWSBURY	14.5	0.46

DEATHS

The number of deaths during the year was 488, compared with 524, 444 and 483 in the previous years respectively.

Of the 488 deaths, 242 were males and 246 females.

The crude death rate was 10.6, but by applying the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General, the adjusted death rate becomes 10.9

Of the 488 deaths, 319 persons were 65 years of age or over.

If the main causes of death are grouped, it will be seen that 384 of the 488 deaths can be allocated to four groups as follows :—

1. Heart disease	167
2. Other diseases of the Circulatory System, including Vascular lesions of Nervous System	90
3. Cancer (all sites)	76
4. Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Disease, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis	51

There were 2 deaths from suicide and 3 from motor vehicle accidents.

Of the child population, there were 12 infant deaths (under one year of age), 6 deaths of children from one to five years and 2 deaths of children from 6 to 15 years of age.

Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year 1950

Causes of Death	Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District													
	Male	Female	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over
	242	246	12	2	—	3	1	2	—	4	13	12	120	319
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	1
Tuberculosis, Other forms	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Syphilitic Disease ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	19	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	11	30
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—
Diabetes	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Vascular lesions of Nervous System... ...	30	38	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	53
Coronary Disease, Angina	42	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	20	37
Hypertension with Ht. Disease	9	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	9
Other Heart Disease	33	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	12	78
Other Circulatory Disease	9	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	16
Influenza	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia	7	11	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	10
Bronchitis	15	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	19
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and ill-defined Diseases ...	24	23	6	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	3	2	8	25
M.T. Vehicle Accidents	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
All other Accidents ...	3	7	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	5
Suicide	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Homicide and operations of War... ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 12; compared with 24, 25 and 26 in the previous years respectively.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 18 per 1,000 live births, compared with 35, 32 and 33, in the previous years respectively.

This is the lowest Infant Mortality Rate ever recorded in Shrewsbury.

The causes of infant deaths are set out in the table below.

Infant Mortality, 1950

Net deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	No.		Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Congenital Causes	7	Prematurity ...	4	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	5
		Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
		Duodenal atresia ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro-Intestinal	1	Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Infectious	3	Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Miscellaneous	1	Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	12		6	—	—	1	7	4	1	—	—	12

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Mr. J. H. Sabido (Water Engineer) has kindly supplied the following notes on the water supply of the town, accompanied by statistics of laboratory examinations carried out at Shelton Waterworks :—

" During the year under review Shelton Head Works have supplied the whole of the Undertaking's water requirements free of all restriction. The average daily quantity supplied amounted to 1,879,000 gallons, which is equivalent to 40.61 gallons per head per day. The per capita consumption is less than the previous year due to continued efforts in waste detection.

" Routine daily chemical and bacteriological analyses have been carried out at Shelton on the water at the separate stages in treatment. The averages of the results obtained from these examinations are given in the accompanying table.

" During the year the practice of making routine bacteriological examinations of drinking water samples drawn from households at random was maintained. One hundred and forty-three such examinations were carried out during the year and all samples were found to be sterile. The water supplied to the town has maintained the very high standard of purity demanded for public water supplies in this country.

" As recorded in the 1949 report there was some concern about the water supply, derived from deep wells, to a group of seven houses on the outskirts of the town. At that time the Water Committee decided that if and when mains were laid in the vicinity of these houses steps would be taken to ensure them having town water. Since that time a scheme has been prepared and the necessary pipes and materials ordered and the Corporation is making an effort to secure contributions towards the cost of the work from the householders concerned.

" The length of new mains laid within the Borough during the year was 4.1 miles, being 2.5 miles of trunk distribution main and 1.6 miles of normal distribution mains."

In this section of last year's Report an account was given of a group of 7 houses on well water supply and that periodic examinations showed that after the autumn rains there was an absence of faecal B. Coli. Further examinations, however, later on revealed the presence again of faecal B. Coli and the Public Health Committee were advised to approach the Water Committee about the provision of a public supply.

As will be seen in the Water Engineer's notes the latter Committee took preliminary steps to ensure provision of town water in 1951, if material now on order can be obtained.

SHELTON WATER SUPPLY

Average results of Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations, 1950

	ITEM	RIVER WATER UNTREATED	WATER AFTER STORAGE AND PRECHLORINATION	WATER AFTER SEDIMENTATION	WATER AFTER FILTRATION AND STERILISATION
BACTERIOLOGICAL	Probable No. of coliform bacteria present per 100 ml.	250+	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Colony count per ml. at 37° C. ...	603	34	12	Nil
	Colony count per ml. at 20°C. ...	1,857	43	10	Nil
CHEMISTRY Results expressed as parts per 100,000	Colour (Hazen scale)	56.0	14.0	4.0	1.0
	pH	7.1	6.7	6.7	7.0
	Alkalinity (CaCo3)	7.3	6.2	5.9	6.3
	Chlorides (Cl)	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
	Free Ammonia	0.054	—	—	0.136
	Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs. at 37°C.)...	0.249	—	—	0.054
	Total Hardness	—	—	—	9.1
	Permanent Hardness	—	—	—	2.8
	Residual Chlorine ppm.	—	—	—	0.07

The water supply position of dwelling houses in the town as computed in the year 1950 may be summarised as follows :—

Total number of houses	12,391
Total number of houses with a piped supply	12,309
Houses with a piped Corporation supply...	12,255
Houses with a piped supply from other sources	54
Houses without a piped supply, *i.e.*, from wells or streams	82

Swimming Baths

The general condition and the bacteriological state of the water at the Baths maintained a high standard during the year, except for a short period at the beginning of the season which was due to low water pressure which affected the chlorination plant.

During the bathing season 39 samples of water for bacteriological examination were taken from the two Baths.

Of these 39 samples, 28 showed complete absence of Coliform bacilli or B. coli.

Of the remaining 11 samples, the count of Coliform or B. Coli organisms was low, except on one occasion, when the result was classed as unsatisfactory.

Drainage, Closet Accommodation, Sewerage and Public Cleansing

The Borough Surveyor (Mr. F. R. Dinnis) has kindly supplied the following information :—

" Existing houses connected to sewers during 1950	13
New houses erected without connection to sewerage system during 1950	4

" **Main Drainage.**—Approximately 950 lin. yards of new 6 in. sewer was laid from Oteley Road to the Meole Brace Works to replace the unsatisfactory cesspools at the 13 houses in Oteley Road.

" Construction was started on the Northern Outfall sewer, at an estimated cost of £46,000. This sewer from Harlescott Cross Roads via Featherbed Lane crosses the river and connects direct to the Monkmoor Works, the old Pimley Works will be superseded and some 660 acres of land will be opened up.

" Work continued on the preparation of the South Eastern Outfall sewer scheme which will provide a new sewer from the Monkmoor Works to the Borough Boundary at Meole Brace.

" **Public Cleansing.**—Refuse was collected weekly and disposed of by controlled tipping at the Monkmoor Tip. During the year two-and-a-half acres of land reclaimed by this method was handed over to the Farm Manager."

The present position as regards sewage disposal in the town as estimated during 1950 is as follows :—

Total number of houses in the Borough		12,391
Number of houses connected to Corporation sewers ...	11,941	12,196
Number of houses connected to independent sewage disposal works, *e.g.*, cesspits, septic tanks	255	
Number of houses relying on earth, pail or chemical closets		195

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Mr. C. Stanley (Chief Sanitary Inspector) submits the following remarks and tabular statements of work carried out during the year :

" The usual thanks to my colleagues in the Sanitary Inspector's Office, who carried out their duties conscientiously and well.

Mr. G. T. Adams, Clerk-Pupil Sanitary Inspector, was successful in obtaining his qualifying certificate by examination.

On April 1st, 1950, the Council became the responsible authority under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. This necessitated the employment of a Rodent Operator, and the services of Mr. J. Cartwright, previously employed by the Salop County Council in this capacity, were enlisted.

The re-housing of the seven families occupying condemned houses in the Frankwell Quay area was carried out with the assistance of the Housing Committee. This action, so long desired, cleared off a certain amount of pre-war slum clearance. The fourteen houses on this site, represented as unfit for human habitation, now await demolition.

Cesspools, requiring constant surveillance, came in for their share of attention. A new sewer, to serve some thirteen modern houses, where faulty cesspits had caused much trouble, was laid to connect with the Meole Brace Outfall Works.

There is no doubt that, in the future, very careful consideration will be given before granting permission for building development in areas not served by a piped water supply and by a sewer.

Smouldering fires—on a railway embankment and on a private tip—caused great concern and inconvenience to adjoining residents. British Railways, in the former case, commenced remedial operations ; whilst in the latter instance the owners, at considerable expense, abated the nuisance. Such occurrences present an unenviable experience for officials and all concerned.

Efforts to improve methods of Food Hygiene were assisted considerably by the Minister of Food's confirmation of the Council's Clean Food Byelaws. These Byelaws came into operation on the 1st March, 1950, and it was resolved that all food shops in the Borough should be supplied with a free copy of this legislation. The additional work involved on these activities is welcomed by the Department. As in many other phases of public health work, it is possible that no immediate effect will be seen but, gradually, a higher standard will assert itself.

Further references to the work of the Inspectorial Staff will be found under the detailed headings, such as Housing, Inspection and Supervision of Food, Milk Supply, Disinfection and Disinfestation, etc."

Complaints Received during the Year

There were 904 complaints received, and these were investigated in accordance with the following analysis :—

TABLE I

Nature of Complaint	Number Received.
Housing Defects	162
Defective Dustbins	47
Choked and Defective Drains and Sewers...	144
Accumulations of Offensive Matter	16
Relative to Unsound Food	121
Verminous Premises :—	
(*a*) Bugs	17
(*b*) Rats and Mice Infestations	186
(*c*) Beetles, Crickets, and Other Insects	23
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	8
Unsatisfactory Milk Supplies	2
Miscellaneous	178
Total	904

Premises Inspected.

The following summary indicates the number of inspections of various premises carried out during the year :—

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits
Dwelling-houses under Public Health Acts	2,648
Dwelling-houses under Housing Acts	332
Infected Dwelling-houses :—	
(*a*) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) ...	144
(*b*) Contacts	38
(*c*) Fumigations after infectious diseases	14
(*d*) Phthisis enquiries and fumigations	24
Elementary Schools and Church Halls	1
Business Premises	74
Cinemas, Dance Halls, Billiard Halls	14
Fairgrounds	7
Factory Act, 1937 :—	
Factories, with mechanical power	260
Factories, without mechanical power	24
Outworkers' premises	4
Smoke observations	84
Premises which can be controlled by Bye-laws :—	
Offensive Trade Premises	18
Stables, Piggeries, Keeping of Animals	137
Common Lodging-houses	4
Houses let in Lodgings	13
Tents, Vans and Sheds	94
Drainage : Testing by	
Smoke	27
Water	22
Coloured Water	215
Breaking down	4
re Public Sewers...	405
Drainage Work in Progress	140
Means of Escape in case of Fire (S. 60, Public Health Act, 1936)	—
Watercourses and Ditches	40
Land and Tips	152
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, Urinals...	273
Miscellaneous Visits	511
Visits, not Inspections	446

Nature of Inspection	Number of Visits
Verminous Premises :—	
(*a*) Rats and Mice (Infestation Order, 1943)	421
(*b*) Bug Infestations	91
(*c*) Beetles	2
(*d*) Other Vermin	29
Inspections *re* Supervision of Food :-	
Unfit Foodstuffs other than Meat	222
Slaughterhouses	24
Markets	16
Public Health (Meat) Regulation, 1924, Butchers' Shops	148
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 13) :—	
Bakehouses	123
Factory Canteens	21
Restaurant Kitchens, etc.	259
Hotel and Beerhouse Bars and Cellars :—	
Day Inspections	219
Night Inspections	—
Other Premises	700
Section 14 :—	
Sausage Manufacturers	95
Preserved Meat Preparation Premises	79
Preserved Fish Preparation Premises	109
Ice Cream Premises	286
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—	
Milk Sampling for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test for Tuberculosis	170
Contraventions of Milk and Dairies Regulations	10
Dairies at Farms	3
Milkshops and other Dairies	72
Shops Act, 1912-1936.	
Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938	131
Total Visits by Sanitary Inspectors	9,400

Notices Served

Administrative action was taken during the year to secure abatement of nuisances and to enforce the appropriate statutory enactments as follows :—

Subject of Notice	Public Health Acts	Milk and Dairies Regs.	Food and Drugs Act S. 13 and 14	Factories Act, 1937	Shops Acts
Number of Informal Notices served	161	—	81	1	—
Number of Informal Notices complied with	181	—	33	1	—
Number of Informal Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	41	—	56	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices served	90	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	121	—	—	—	—
Number of Statutory Notices Outstanding (against Premises)	5	—	—	—	—
Number of Prosecutions ...	3	—	—	—	—

Sanitary Improvements Effected at Dwelling-houses as a Result of Statutory and Informal Notices Issued

(Number of premises, 254)

	Number Complied with
Defective Drains	16
Choked Drains	18
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	—
Absence of proper sink	—
Defective water closets	10
Defective gullies	9
Defective Sink	9
Defective sink waste pipes	14
Defective W.C. cisterns and fittings	29
Burst water pipes	2
Insufficient water supply	3
Defective soil pipes	—
Dampness arising from :—	
Defective roofs	34
Defective eaves-gutters	7
Defective down-spouts	14
Defective brickwork and pointing	18
Defective damp-proof courses	2
Defective yard paving	8
Defective chimney flues	6
Galvanized metal dustbins provided	51
Defective window-frames and sash-cords	52
Defective floors	35
Defective stairs	8
Defective plaster to walls and ceilings	117
Defective Doors	16
Defective fireplaces	20
Defective wash-boilers	5
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks	1
Defective and bulging external walls	5
Defective and bulging party walls	4
Filthy condition of premises	1
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter	6
Miscellaneous	30

Additional Unsatisfactory Conditions remedied by Verbal Intimations

Nature of Inspection	No. of Premises	Structural Defects	Dirty Conditions
Dwelling houses (Public Health Acts)	116	98	18
Restaurant Kitchens	4	2	2
Food Preparation Premises	41	19	27
Ice Cream Premises (Sale/Manufacture)	3	2	1
Bakehouses	5	2	4
Hotel Bars	1	1	—
Other Dairies	2	2	—
Shops (Shops Acts)	2	2	—
Business Premises	24	18	7
Butchers' Shops	1	1	—
Smoke Nuisance	4	3	1
Tipping of Rubbish	1	—	1
Keeping of Animals	3	—	3

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

The following statistics, required under the provisions of this legislation, are appended :—

Part I of the Act

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	86	24	—	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	196	260	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—
Total	286	284	1	Nil

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— (*a*) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel-making, etc. ...	3	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

Building Progress during 1950

By Local Authority :	Houses	210		
	Flats	52	262	
By Private Enterprise			50	312

Municipal Hostel for Men

Mr. E. A. Andrews (Superintendent) gives the following figures and remarks on the above for the year 1950 :—

" The number of men paying nightly charges was 922, whereas 1,742 paid weekly charges.

" There are 40 beds available and the daily average number of occupied beds was 36.

" **Disinfector.**—The following articles, including Hostel routine work, were disinfected : Mattresses 84, Pillows 87, Blankets 320.

" **Old Age Pensioners.**—There are usually eight to twelve Old Age Pensioners living in the Hostel. The ' Oldest inhabitant ' is in his seventy-sixth year.

" Last winter proved a trying time for the old people, especially the chronic sufferers from bronchitis, etc., when, due to the general shortage of beds at that period, only those very ill were accepted for hospital treatment. The less serious cases were visited by their doctor at the Hostel, Mrs. Andrews acting as nurse.

" As infirmity overtakes the old men they are advised to return to the care of their relatives or alternatively an interview is arranged with the Welfare Officer who will offer accommodation at an Old People's Home."

Corporation Housing Estates

The Housing Manager (Mr. E. Woodhead) provides the following information concerning the activities of the Housing Department:

" **Applications.**—During the year 1950, 711 applications were received, which now makes a total number of 2,410 live applications. The new applications were from newly married couples, families occupying houses of insufficient accommodation and persons who have recently come to live in Shrewsbury.

" **Allocations.**—During the year there have been 326 allocations of tenancies. The month with the largest allocation of tenancies was July, when 49 houses and maisonettes were let.

" **Inspections.**—During the year the Housing Inspector made 2,955 inspections. The analysis is as follows :—

Routine Inspections	682
Change of Tenancy Inspections ...	109
Inspections for repairs	2,115
Miscellaneous Inspections	49
Total	2,955

" **Private Building Licences.**—The number of applications for private building licences is taking a steady spiral trend and are divided as follows :—

Residents in rooms	101
Owners and tenants—residents... ...	77
Non-residents in rooms	18
Owners and tenants—non-residents ...	48
Total	244

The number of licences issued during the year was twelve."

Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	856
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2,980
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitaion	272

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	191

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after services of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	94
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	129
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	2

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil

(2)	Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Sub-Section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	1
(3)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Not known
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	—
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	—
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	552
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	326
(ii)		Number of persons concerned in such cases	815
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Increased activity in milk sampling, over the past four years, has been supplemented by advice and further investigation in the case of unsatisfactory results.

The general effect is that a better-quality product has reached the consumer ; and this year's figures indicate a comparatively high percentage of satisfactory samples.

There is a certain amount of consolation in reporting that the only failures have come from milks produced or processed outside the Borough boundaries.

One Dairyman was granted a licence to pasteurise milk. The applicant had been producing heat-treated milk for several years and, at the request of the Milk Marketing Board, samples had been taken regularly—with satisfactory results. This latter performance weighed considerably in enabling the Committee to reach their decision.

At the close of the year there were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

Dairies	13
Retail purveyors of Milk	28

One hundred and thirty-three samples of milk were taken during the year.

Examination for Tubercle Bacilli

Cultural and animal tests were made on 53 samples—none of which were positive.

Phosphatase Test

One sample out of 64 failed on test.

Methylene Blue Test

One hundred and twenty-four samples were subjected to methylene blue test. Eleven samples were unsatisfactory.

	Test for Tubercle Bacilli		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase		Turbidity	
Samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
133	53	—	113	11	63	1	6	—

Ice Cream

Premises registered for sale and manufacture	14
Premises registered for sale only	67

Sixty-two samples of ice cream were taken during the year, and subjected to examination.

The results are indicated below :—

No. of Samples	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
62	50	7	1	4

The above figures give a heartening picture of a proportionately larger number of samples satisfying the Grade I and Grade II requirements, respectively, as compared with the experience of previous years.

The number of retailers increased from fifty-four to sixty-seven. Many of these vendors dealt in pre-packed ice cream only.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 ; Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ; and Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1939.

The following 45 samples of Food and Drugs were taken, and all but one were reported as genuine and free from foreign ingredients.

Food

Number of samples	35
Formal	24
Informal	11
Number found genuine	35

Ice Cream 10 (all informal) ; Beef Sausage 6 ; Malt Vinegar 4 ; Self Raising Flour 4 ; Semolina 2 ; Ground Almonds 2 (1 informal) ; Christmas Pudding 1 ; Plain Flour 1 ; Special Standard Marmalade 1 ; Mincemeat 1 ; Pork Brawn 1 ; Liver Sausages 1 ; Meat Sausages 1.

Drugs

Number of samples	10 (all informal)
Number found genuine	9
Number not genuine	1

Asperins 1 ; Cinnamon and Quinine 1 ; Compound Liquorice Powder 1 ; Cream of Tartar 1 ; Glauber Salts 1 ; Blauds Iron Pills 1; Liquid Paraffin 1 ; Olive Oil 1 ; Tincture of Iodine 1 ; Zinc Ointment 1.

Remarks on sample returned as " not genuine."

Cinnamon and Quinine: Agrees with label in respect to the amount of Quinine Hydrocloride, slightly deficient in Oil of Cinnamon.

Chemical Analysis

The Sampling Officer took 63 samples of milk during the year, the results being set out as follows :—

Food and Drugs Acts—Analyses of Milk Samples

No. of Samples		No. found Genuine	No. found Not Genuine	Remarks on samples returned as " Not Genuine "
Formal	Informal			
62	1	49	14	1. Fat 2.75%. Solids not Fat 7.9%. Below Standard for Solids not Fat. 8% deficient of fat. No added water. Freezing point normal. The retailer was supplied by two wholesalers. Two further samples were taken (one from each wholesalers' milk). One was found to be genuine and other not genuine (see No. 4 below) 2. Fat 3.3%. Solids not Fat 8.3%. Below for Solids not Fat. Freezing point normal. No added water. 3. Fat 3.0%. Solids not fat 8.4%. Below for Solids not fat. Freezing point normal. No added water. Later re-sampled and found genuine. 4. Fat 2.65%. Solids not fat 7.9%. 12% deficient of fat. Below for Solids not fat. Freeezing point normal. No added water. Delivery samples taken showed the following results (Nos. 5 to 10). 5. Fat 2.7%. Solids not Fat 7.9%. 10% deficient of fat. Below for Solids not fat. Freeezing point normal. No added water. 6. Fat 2.9%. Solids not Fat 8.3%. 3% deficient of fat. Below for Solids not Fat. Freezing point normal. No added water. 7. Fat 3.25%. Solids not Fat 8.3%. Below for Solids not Fat. Freezing point normal. No added water. 8. Fat 3.1%. Solids not Fat 8.35%. Below for Solids not Fat. Freezing point normal. No added water. 9. Fat 3.15%. Solids not fat 8.35%. Below for Solids not Fat. Freezing point normal .No added water. 10. Fat 3.2%. Solids not fat 8.35%. Below for Solids not Fat. Freezing point normal. No added water. Seven " appeal to cow " samples of Nos 5 to 10 were taken. One sample was genuine, 4 showed cows to be giving milk below standard for Solids not Fat and 2 showed cows to be giving milk below standard for Fat and Solids not Fat. 11. Fat 2.5%. Solids not Fat 8.75%. 17% deficient of fat. Two further samples taken, both genuine. Retailer cautioned by letter. 12. Fat 3.2%. Solids not fat 8.2%. Below for Solids not Fat. Freezing point normal. No added water. 13. Fat 3.6%. Solids not Fat 7.8%. This sample contained 8% added water. Three " appeal to cow " samples were taken and milk found to be genuine. Retailer prosecuted and fined £5 and £5 costs. 14. Fat 3.15%. Solids not Fat 8.1%. Below for Solids not Fat. Freezing point normal. No added water.

Public Abattoir

The accompanying table sets out the comprehensive amount of work carried out so ably by the Superintendent (Mr. S. R. Reed) and his assistant :—

Public Abattoir

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	5258	3103	4226	21570	4144
Number inspected	5258	3103	4226	21570	4144
Dressed carcases inspected ...	114	456	66	137	91
Total inspected	5372	3559	4292	21707	4235
All Diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole carcases condemned ...	5	85	76	129	38
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1403	1015	50	1382	337
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	26.21	30.91	2.93	6.96	8.85
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned ...	9	153	15	—	17
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1470	1471	—	—	340
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	27.53	45.63	0.35	—	8.43

Diseased and unsound conditions found in the animals dealt with caused the detention and surrender for destruction of a total weight in carcases and offal of 130 tons 8 cwts. 59 lbs., details of which are given in the following table :—

	Carcases	Offal
Beef	141,921 lb.	128,982 lb.
Veal	4,853 lb.	
Mutton and Lamb	6,751 lb.	
Pork	9,648 lb.	

The following foodstuffs, other than meat, being unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily surrendered for destruction :—

Fish	896 lbs.
Bacon and Ham	177¼ lbs.
Dried Fruit	111¾ lbs.
Preserved Goods	3,226 tins and jars
Ice Cream	3,496 briquettes
Cheese	162½ lbs.
Sausage	39 lbs.
Other Foods	809½ lbs.

The condemnation of the ice-cream briquettes was a consequence of successive breakdowns in the refrigeration apparatus at a large store. As the supplier could not accept return, for further heat-treatment, it was necessary to destroy these consignments as the retailer could not comply with the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The incidence of infectious diseases was again low.

There were notified 116 cases of Measles, 73 of Whooping Cough, 54 of Scarlet Fever and 85 of Dysentery.

There were 7 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, of which 6 were paralytic cases. There was one death from Acute Poliomyelitis.

Towards the end of the year Sonne Dysentery began to become prevalent and steps were taken to try and control this disease.

All notified cases were visited and those who were connected with the preparation or sale of foodstuffs were excluded from work and specimens taken until negative.

In some cases contacts or whole families were dealt with, but despite many efforts it subsequently appeared that infection became widespread.

One new feature that was helpful was the power to issue medical certificates under the National Insurance Act, 1948, to those contacts who were engaged in Food handling or preparation.

There was an outbreak of Scarlet Fever at a store where there were approximately 100 employees.

As the source of the outbreak could not be pin-pointed, it was decided with the help of the Public Health Laboratory Service to take nose and throat swabs of the complete staff.

Some carriers of Haemolytic Streptococci were found, some of whom were persistent and did not clear up easily.

In such cases arrangements were made with the patient's own doctor to give a course of injections of a procaine penicillin preparation which, as subsequent swabbing and re-swabbing showed, was very effective in clearing up the situation and bringing the outbreak to an end.

The same procedure was adopted in the case of a hotel waiter, whose nasal infection prevented him from being allowed to return to work until a course of penicillin injections were found to be effective.

The Salop County Council, as Local Health Authority, are now responsible for work in connection with Vaccination, Diphtheria Immunisation and Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

Two Clinics are held each week in Shrewsbury, conducted by your Medical Officer of Health, who acts as agent for the County Council.

The County Medical Officer of Health has provided the following figures relating to the work done in Shrewsbury during 1950.

Diphtheria Immunisation

		Immunisations
Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	287
	By General Practitioners	143
School Children :	At Clinic	24
	By General Practitioners	5
	Total	459

	Reinforcing Injection
At Clinic	195
By General Practitioners	32
Total	227

	Positive	Negative	Total
Post Schick Tests ...	4	288	292

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-School Children :	At Clinic	43
	By General Practitioners	31
School Children :	At Clinic	4
	By General Practitioners	9
	Total	87

Vaccination

Primary	Children under 1 year of age :	At Clinic	76
		By General Practitioners	123
	Others :	At Clinic	66
		By General Practitioners	105
		Total	370

Re-vaccination :	At Clinic	54
	By General Practitioners	105
	Total	159

It is difficult to cast one's mind back a quarter of a century to realise how we are served to-day compared with then.

I refer to the Public Health Laboratory Service, which is of such great help in the examination of water, milks, ice cream, etc., as well as all the bacteriological examinations of clinical material from hospitals or medical practitioners.

The willing assistance of the Director of the Laboratory (Dr. A. C. Jones) in co-operating in field epidemiology, is very much appreciated.

Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases Notified, 1950

(Not including Tuberculosis)

MONTH	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Peurperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis		Acute Encephalitis Infective	Dysentery	Food Poisoning
									Paralytic	Non-Paralytic			
Jan. ...	2	1	1	1	5	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Feb. ...	2	—	—	—	7	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
March ...	2	—	—	2	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April ...	—	1	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
May ...	—	1	1	—	4	1	4	—	—	—	—	4	—
June ...	—	—	—	2	4	22	4	—	—	—	—	—	2
July ...	—	—	1	—	2	32	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
August ...	—	—	—	2	2	31	8	—	3	—	—	—	—
Sept. ...	—	—	—	—	2	6	15	—	2	—	1	—	1
October ...	—	1	2	—	4	5	6	—	1	1	—	—	1
Nov. ...	1	—	—	—	6	1	2	—	—	—	—	7	—
Dec. ...	1	1	1	—	8	3	21	—	—	—	—	74	—
Totals ...	8	5	6	7	54	116	73	1	6	1	1	85	4

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1950

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified										Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all ages	At Ages—Years									
		Under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & upwards	
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	1
Scarlet Fever	54	—	1	11	22	8	8	4	—	—	46
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Acute Poliomyelitis—											
Paralytic	6	—	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	6
Non-Paralytic	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia—											
Acute Primary	6	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—
Acute Influenzal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—											
Infective	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Post-infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	85	6	9	16	17	8	10	13	4	2	9
Measles...	116	4	28	38	44	—	1	—	1	—	2
Whooping Cough	73	3	19	28	22	1	—	—	—	—	4
Food Poisoning	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	3
Totals	367	18	61	96	108	17	21	33	9	4	86

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
25—35	3	5	—	3	2	—	—	—
35—45	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	1
45—55	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
65 and upwards ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	13	11	2	9	6	—	—	2

Of the 8 deaths from Tuberculosis, 3, or 37 per cent, were not notified before death.

The Phthisis (Respiratory or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death Rate for the year was 0.13 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.39 in the previous year.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

A summary of work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with infectious disease, disinfection and disinfestation work is as follows :—

Visits made in connection with infectious disease	220
Disinfection carried out after :—	
Tuberculosis	18
Other infectious disease	8

Dwelling houses treated for Bug infestation, etc., 50.

Disinfestation with D.D.T. solution was carried out at 50 dwelling houses. The type of vermin was as given herewith :—

Bugs	46 houses
Fleas	4 houses

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

As previously mentioned in this report, the Council became the responsible authority, under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Contracts were made for rodent disinfestation work at numerous business premises and, at the end of the year, the number of premises under contract was as follows :—

Business Premises	79
Private Dwellinghouses	10

In addition, work was executed at various Corporation properties.

Bi-annual treatment of the town sewers were effected, with the assistance of the Borough Surveyor's Staff.

BRITISH MUSEUM